



Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten) im Europäischen Parlament  
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) in the European Parliament  
Groupe du Parti Populaire Européen (Démocrates-Chrétiens) au Parlement européen

## **Information Society and Information Technology**

The EPP Group believes that we are experiencing a real information revolution. The Information Society is nowadays part of our everyday lives, allowing communicating in any place at any time. The EPP Group is deeply involved in this sector as this revolution has been driven by two key factors of relevance for our Group: technology innovation and market forces.

On the telecommunications sector, the Group has been following a balanced approach: setting the pace for opening markets, while defending consumer interests and maintaining equal opportunities for all participants. In one word: cheaper and better services of a higher quality and reliability.

### **Liberalisation of the telecom markets**

After two years of negotiations the 'Telecom Package' was finally adopted. The EPP Group has long campaigned for the completion of the liberalisation of the telecom markets in Europe. The new telecom rules will strengthen the rights of phone and internet users and boost competition among telecom markets. The new rules will enhance consumer rights, safeguard internet freedom, protect data, boost competition and modernize radio spectrum use.

With the adoption of the telecom package the EPP Group managed to further strengthened the consumer protection and privacy rules by imposing clearer information about contracts and bills, easier access to legal information online, clearer and comparable information on tariffs, more information on the costs of terminating a contract to facilitate the switch of operators, easier access to the Europe-wide 112 emergency number to handicapped and elderly people over the internet, better protection for personal data.

BEREC: Body of European Regulators of electronic communications:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/ecomm/implementation\\_enforcement/berec/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/implementation_enforcement/berec/index_en.htm)

### **Europe's 2015 Digital Agenda**

The European Parliament approved the 'Digital Agenda 2015.eu', a five-year plan with concrete actions to enable European society to take advantage of all the benefits of the new information and communication technologies (ICTs) and become a real digital society.

The Digital Agenda is one of the flagships of the EPP Group and the Europe 2020 Strategy as ICTs are worth €600 bn a year, or 5% of GDP, and in the last 15 years, investments in new technologies delivered half of the EU's productivity growth.

The plan drafted by EPP Group MEP defines the strategies, the actions and the political goals that we need to develop if we want Europe to benefit from the digital revolution and reach a fully digital society.

### **Exploiting concrete benefits for consumers**

Although the EPP Group is in principle against market interventions, it supported the Roaming Regulations, ensuring the right balance between consumers and business interests.

The EPP Group ensured cheaper prices for roaming in voice, SMS and data communications, as well as concrete measures to avoid bill shocks due to data roaming and more transparency in billing.

European Commissioner for Digital Agenda Neelie Kroes: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/kroes/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/kroes/index_en.htm)

European Commission - DG Information Society and Media: